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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 9 February 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Recent actions perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinian and international peace activists in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, reveal an aggressive, disturbing pattern to which the international community must be alerted. Such actions are yet another manifestation of Israel's intransigence with regard to pursuit of its illegal policies and practices against the Palestinian people, its arrogant impunity, and its intolerance of any protest or demonstrations, including such non-violent resistance, against its illegal and oppressive actions.

In addition to the constant aggression by the Israeli occupying forces against the weekly Palestinian protests against the Wall in villages such as Ni'lin and Bi'lin, in recent weeks Israel has intensified its targeting of Palestinian and international peace activists, with a rise in confrontations against and the detention and arrest of numerous activists. Yesterday, Monday, 8 February, at 1 a.m. (Palestine time) Israeli occupying forces raided the Ramallah office of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement Construction, ransacking the Committee's office and confiscating its equipment, archives and property. The four-hour raid resulted in substantial physical damage and the theft of the Committee's extensive archive and documentation of Israeli violations of international humanitarian law, particularly with regard to the ongoing construction of the settlements and the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem.

We wish to highlight our concern at the increasing assaults being launched by Israel, the occupying Power, against non-violent resistance by Palestinian and international peace activists against the illegal Wall in specific. The latest raid was carried out less than 24 hours after the occupying forces had raided Ramallah, where they apprehended and detained two international activists from their home. The two activists, 25-year-old Ariadna Jove Marti of Spain and 22-year-old Bridgette Chappel from Australia, were both members of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM). This is the second such incident in which Israeli occupying forces

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launched an incursion into a Palestinian city for the purpose of detaining international peace activists and deporting them for engaging in pro-peace activities. In addition to the above, Eva Novakova, a Czech activist, also with ISM, was detained in Ramallah and deported in January. And just yesterday, the Israeli court extended the detention of Mr. Murad Sinj, a Turkish activist, for an additional 25 days. In addition to the threat of detention, Israel is also using punitive measures, such as travel bans, to limit the movement of peace activists and advocates, such as the six-month travel ban arbitrarily imposed on the Palestinian map expert, Khalil Tafakji, who heads the Arab Studies Society's Mapping and Geographic Information Systems Department.

Such intimidation and assaults by the occupying Power on pro-peace activists are clearly aimed at discouraging principled activists around the world from coming to the Occupied Palestinian Territory to protect the principles of justice and freedom as well as international laws and norms. Moreover, repeated Israeli incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas in the West Bank are clearly part of another ill-willed attempt to undermine the Palestinian Authority and its successful efforts to enforce the rule of law in Palestinian cities, towns and villages under its control.

These punitive, illegal and provocative measures are a stark testament to the real anti-peace agenda the current right-wing government in Israel is now advancing on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Ironically, Israel, the occupying Power, is blatantly combating peaceful activism against its illegal actions and continued occupation while at the same time it is stepping up those illegal activities, including the expansion of its illegal settlements throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around East Jerusalem.

This situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory requires serious redress by the international community, which should defend peace activists as well as the principles of international humanitarian law that they strive to defend by their modest means. This is an international responsibility that has far-reaching moral and legal ramifications.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 355 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 12 January 2010 (A/ES-10/475-S/2010/22), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 23 February 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to the most recent disturbing and provocative action by Israel, the occupying Power, in defiance of its obligations under international law, international humanitarian law and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. In a clear and explicit declaration to continue with its confiscation of Palestinian land, entrench its occupation and create further obstacles for the resumption of the peace process, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced yesterday, 22 February 2010, that it was adding religious sites of historical and religious significance in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to its so-called list of national heritage sites, the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Al-Khalil (Hebron) and the site of Bilal's Mosque in Bethlehem (Rachel's Tomb) along with the Walls of the Old City of Jerusalem.

The Palestinian side condemns such destructive and provocative statements and actions by Israel, the occupying Power, which are not only illegal but will surely inflame tensions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, at a time when the international community is exerting maximum efforts to build trust between the two parties in order to relaunch the peace process. In addition, the above illegal policies and practices serve only to embolden and encourage the aggression, provocations and acts of terror that continue to be perpetrated by Israeli settlers throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory against the civilian population and their properties as well as against historical and religious sites.

Given the extremely important religious and spiritual nature of the issue and the importance of these sites to Muslims and Christians worldwide, we call on the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the Security Council, to shoulder its responsibilities and take the necessary steps to address this issue and to have the above-mentioned illegal Israeli action against Palestinian archaeological and cultural sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

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reversed immediately. Unfortunately, the international community has fallen short of taking any effective action to stop such illegal actions of successive Israeli governments in the past, which has allowed for such violations to continue and if they remain unaddressed, the consequences at the political and security levels will surely be grave. Not only do such actions have the high potential to incite violence between the two sides as mentioned above, but, as we have repeatedly cautioned, such actions further threaten the prospects for achieving the two-State solution for peace.

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Ambassador, Permanent Observer of Palestine
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